

BUMED Oral History Project
Captain Edward Waters, MC, USN
Director of Undersea Medicine and Radiation Health/
Specialty Leader for Undersea Medicine
Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED)
Synopsis and Glossary

Date and Location of Interview: 1 September 2015, BUMED, Defense Health Headquarters (DHHQ)

Interviewer: Mr. André B. Sobocinski, BUMED Historian

Synopsis:

The son of an airline executive and a former nurse, Captain Edward Waters was born in Tulsa, OK, but grew up throughout the United States living in New England, New York, Texas, and California. After graduating high school (Robert Louis Stevenson High School) in Pebble Beach, CA, he attended Santa Clara University for his freshman year before transferring to Dartmouth College, in Hanover, N.H. At Dartmouth, Waters excelled in academics (majoring in Biology) and athletics playing football, and rugby. In his senior year, Waters reached a crossroads for his future. After an enjoyable stint as a roadie for the band Duran Duran, Waters tossed around the idea of continuing this path. However when his next gig—i.e, Mick Jagger solo tour—was unexpectantly cancelled, Waters took an externship in computer programming before refocusing on a future in medicine. Waters graduated Dartmouth in 1988.

Captain Waters attended the Medical School at the University of Virginia on a HPSP scholarship. He was commissioned into the Navy as an Ensign in 1989 and graduated from medical school in 1993. After a transitional internship at Naval Medical Center in San Diego, CA, in 1994, Waters would spend the next seven years in operationally-focused tours.

In 1995, Waters reported to Camp Pendleton, CA to serve as Battalion Surgeon and Group Surgeon within the 1st Surveillance, Reconnaissance, Intelligence Group with the U.S. Marine Corps. During this tour, he earned his Airborne wings at the U.S. Army Airborne School in Fort Benning, GA as well as his Hyperbaric Medical Officer qualification at Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center in Panama City, FL. In 1996, Captain Waters reported to the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, CA to serve as the Officer-in-Charge of the Mountain Medicine Section, overseeing the Cold Weather Medicine and the Wilderness Medicine Courses. Captain Waters next successfully completed the Undersea Medical Officer Course at the Naval Undersea Medicine Institute in Groton, CT and at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center in Panama City, FL in 1998, and reported to SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team ONE in Pearl Harbor, HI in 1999 as the Diving Medical Officer. During this tour, he completed the qualification requirements as a Submarine Medical Officer.

In 2001, Captain Waters reported to Naval Medical Center Portsmouth as a Resident in Pediatrics. He successfully completed training in Pediatrics in 2004, and became a Diplomat of the American Board of Pediatrics and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics later that year. He reported to Naval Hospital Beaufort in 2004 as a Staff

Pediatrician, and transferred one year later to Naval Health Clinic Hawaii. Here, he expanded his leadership and Executive Medicine experience by serving as the Department Head of Pediatrics, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Medical Staff, and the Asthma Disease Management Champion among other things. He reported to Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet in June, 2007, where he was responsible for the health and readiness of the 12,000 submariners across the Pacific Submarine Force. Recently, he served as the US Navy Exchange Officer with the British Royal Navy from June 2010 to July 2012, functioning as a Diving and Hyperbaric Medical Officer, performing special duty fitness dispositions, clinically managing diving casualties, and overseeing Undersea Medicine training for UK military physicians and medical enlisted ratings. He has just completed a two year tour at BUMED as the Deputy Director for Undersea Medicine, where his primary duties included expert review and disposition of all undersea-related Navy and Marine Corps special duty medical waivers and disqualifications, evaluation of all suitability screenings of Navy Occupational Exposure to Ionizing Radiation disqualification packages, and serving as the BUMED lead and liaison for the Nuclear Weapons Personnel Reliability Program and Radiation Health Program.

Key Words:

1st Force Reconnaissance Company
1st Intelligence Company 9th Communications Battalion
ANGLICO-Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company
Beaufort, Naval Hospital
BSO-18-Budget Submitting Office, Navy Medicine
BUMED-Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
C4-Combat Casualty Care Course at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas
ECOMS-Executive Committee of the Medical Staff
HPSP-Health Professions Scholarship Program
IDC-Independent Duty Corpsman
Mayport, Naval Branch Medical Clinic
MWTC-Mountain Warfare Training Center
NECC-Naval Expeditionary Combat Command
NSSC-Naval Submarine Support Center
PBD-712-Program Budget Decision 712
PEP-Personnel Exchange Program
PFT-Physical Fitness Test
PRT-Physical Readiness Test
SDVT-1-SEAL Delivery Vehicle Team ONE
SDW-Special Duty Waiver System
SPECWAR-Special Warfare
Submarine Group SEVEN
TYCOM-Type Command
UMO-Undersea Medical Officer
USUHS-Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

Glossary:

1st Force Reconnaissance Company conducts deep reconnaissance and direct action raids in support of I Marine Expeditionary Force requirements across the range of military operations to include crisis response, expeditionary operations and major combat operations. 1st Force Recon Company was deactivated 26 October 2006 and the majority of the personnel were used to create 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion. (source: www.marines.mil)

1st Intelligence Battalion plans and directs, collects, process, produce and disseminate intelligence, and provides, counterintelligence support to the MEF Command Element, MEF major subordinate commands, subordinate Marine Air Group Task Force (MAGTF), and other commands as directed (source: www.imef.marines.mil)

9th Comm Battalion's mission is to: "deploy task-organized, self-sustaining combat-ready detachments capable of providing command, control, communications, and computer (C4) support to CG MARFORPAC, CG I MEF, CG 1ST MEB, Subordinate MAGTF, and MEU Commanders, in support of Joint and/or Combined operations in any environment and across the spectrum of conflict." (source: www.imef.marines.mil)

American Airlines was founded in Chicago, IL in 1926. In 1979, it moved its headquarters from New York to Dallas/Fort Worth, TX. Today, it is the world's largest airline.

Apple MacIntosh 128K personal computer was first released on 24 January 1984. The computer had a 9-inch screen, an 8.5 disk drive and a handle on top for transportation. It retailed for about \$2,495.

Duran Duran—popular New Wave British band formed in Birmingham in 1978 and named after a character from the science Fiction film *Barbarella* (Durand Durand).

Golden Gate Airlines was a regional airline founded in Monterey, CA, in 1980. It merged with Swift Airlines in 1981 before being disestablished shortly thereafter.

HPSP Scholarship Program— HPSP (Health Professions Scholarship Program). A four-year scholarship in which the Navy pays for medical school tuition and expenses. HPSP students are committed to four active duty tours of 45 days each year of medical school and four years on active duty as an armed forces physician, and four years of inactive reserve duty. The Navy awards about 200 HPSP scholarships each year.

Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center (MCMWTC) is a Service-level Installation located within the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, 21 miles north of Bridgeport, CA, and 22 miles south of Coleville, California, on Highway 108 in Pickel Meadow. For over 62 years the Marine Corps has conducted training in partnership with the U.S.

Forest Service at this location. (source: <http://www.29palms.marines.mil/mcmwtc>).

Program Budget Decision (PBD) 712, Military to Civilian Conversions, directed that a total of 20,070 DoD-Wide military positions be converted to civilian positions between FY04 and FY05. The Navy's Defense Health Program was directed to convert a total of 1,772 military billets as part of the total 20,070 conversion target

Robert Louis Stevenson High School (now known as Stevenson High School) is a highly selective, boarding school located in Carmel and Pebble Beach, CA. Founded in 1952, the school was named after the Scottish author who visited the Monterey Peninsula in the 1870s and found inspiration for some of his writings.

Submarine Group SEVEN supports operations in the Western Pacific from its headquarters in Yokosuka, Japan. Commander, Submarine Group SEVEN exercises administrative control over deployed submarines and tenders, and reports to Commander, Submarine Force Pacific. Submarine Group SEVEN is comprised of the command staff element, deployed submarines, and a permanently forward deployed submarine tender. (source: <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/navy/subgru7>).

THCSRR (Total Health Care Support Readiness Requirements). In response to budgetary and legislative pressures to properly size Navy medical force structure, the Navy Surgeon General completed a requirements model in March 1994, called Total Health Care Support Readiness Requirements (THCSRR), to determine and project its active duty medical force readiness requirements. In November 1996, the Surgeon General decided to apply THCSRR, which resulted in attempts to significantly reduce GME. The THCSRR model defines readiness requirements as supporting three missions, including (1) a wartime mission meeting the demands of two nearly simultaneous major regional conflicts, including mobilizing hospital ships, supporting Navy fleet and Marine Corps operations ashore and afloat and numerous fleet hospitals, and maintaining military treatment facilities outside the United States; (2) a day-to-day operational support mission for the Navy fleet and Marine Corps that allows Navy personnel to rotate between the United States and operational Navy platforms and overseas assignments and that includes GME; and (3) a peacetime health benefit mission providing health care benefits in military treatment facilities in the United States. (General Accounting Office. *Defense Health Care. Collaboration and Criteria Needed for Sizing Graduate Medical Education*. GAO/HEHS-98-121. April 1998. <http://www.gao.gov/assets/230/225542.pdf>)

Undersea Medical Training, U.S. All prospective undersea medical officers must go through this multiphase program to be qualified for certification. Phase one is six week program at the Naval Undersea Medical Institute (NUMI) located on Naval Submarine Base New London, Groton, CT. Training during this introductory phase includes rigorous physical conditioning and a modified Submarine Officer's Basic course

including training in Damage Control, Fire Fighting, and Submarine systems. Students will also receive lectures on the operational aspects of medicine, psychiatry, and dentistry. Physical Training is emphasized during this phase to prepare the student for dive school, and entails approximately two-three hours of swimming, running, calisthenics, finning, and water confidence training per day. The goal of the physical training is for the student to pass the diver Physical Screening Test (PST) and to prepare the student for Dive Medical Officer (DMO) training conducted at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center (NDSTC). Students must be able to pass the Diver PST by the end of Phase One in order to continue on to Phase Two at NDSTC.

Phase two is nine weeks of diving training at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center (NDSTC) in Panama City, FL. An emphasis on physical conditioning is continued with daily PT conducted by the dive school training team. Each candidate will be required to pass a Diver PST at NDSTC prior to the initiation of training. The first two weeks incorporate basic and advanced SCUBA diving. The candidate will receive additional training in the closed circuit re-breathing systems use by the navy SEAL teams (oxygen based) and EOD Teams (mixed gas based). Training in the salvage communities' surface supplied (hard hat) diving equipment is also provided during this phase. Students receive hands-on experience in hyperbaric chamber operations as well as extensive training in the Navy Recompression tables and diving medicine.

Women aboard Submarines. On 19 February 2010, the Secretary of Defense signed letters notifying Congress of the Navy's intention to change the policy regarding the assignment of women to submarines. The Navy proceeded with a plan to integrate women aboard submarines on 29 April 2010. Some 24 female officers were added to the submarine force. Eight different crews of guided-missile attack (SSGNs) and ballistic-missile (SSBNs) submarines were integrated with three female officers. The assignment involved two submarines on the East Coast homeported in Kings Bay and two on the West Coast homeported in Bangor, WA, each of which is supported by a blue and gold crew.